Ceiling on trader's margin on medicines

2920. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to cap ceiling on the margin of medicines for traders;

(b) if so, the details of the medicines on which margin of traders will be reduced;

(c) whether it is only for generic medicines or the branded products as well, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps to be taken by Government on availability of medicines on reduced prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) Prices of 74 Scheduled bulk drugs and formulations based thereon are fixed by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in accordance with the provisions of para 7 of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95).

The Government constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary (Pharma) to examine the issue of span of price control (including trade margin). Subsequently, a Task Force under the Chairmanship of Dr. Pronab Sen, Principal Advisor, Planning Commission was also constituted to explore options other than price control to make available life saving drugs at reasonable prices.

Based on the recommendations of the Committee under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary (Pharmaceuticals) and the Task Force under the Chairmanship of Dr. Pronab Sen, Principal Advisor, Planning Commission as well as feedback received from other stakeholders the Government is likely to finalize the new Pharmaceutical Policy shortly. The issue of trade margin would also be addressed therein.

Suggestion of Punjab Government on import of DAP fertilizers

2921. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the fact that Indian Agriculture still continues to be largely dependent on import of fertilizers, particularly DAP, the Government